

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY DEDICATES HIGHWAY IN HONOR
OF U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE LACY H. THORNBURG**

RALEIGH — Gov. Mike Easley today joined other state and local officials to dedicate an 8.4-mile stretch of U.S. 23/74 from the Jackson County line at Balsam west to Exit 85 in Jackson County in honor of U.S. District Court Judge Lacy H. Thornburg. A ceremony naming the highway for Thornburg was held on the campus of Southwestern Community College in Sylva.

“Judge Thornburg has served as a tremendous advocate for western North Carolina and earned a reputation of judicial excellence and a commitment to public service throughout his career,” said Easley. “Naming this highway in his honor recognizes the lasting contribution Lacy has made to this community and region, as well as to the entire state.”

During the ceremony, Easley presented Thornburg with a replica highway sign that read, “Judge Lacy H. Thornburg Highway”. Steve Gray, mayor of the town of Webster, read a proclamation declaring Aug. 29, 2007 as “Lacy Thornburg Day.”

A native of Mecklenburg County and long-time resident of western North Carolina, Thornburg has spent more than four decades in public service. He served three terms in the N.C. House of Representatives from 1961 to 1967, followed by more than a decade as a Superior Court judge. He was elected to two terms as North Carolina’s Attorney General from 1985 through 1992 and appointed to his current position as U.S. District Court Judge for the Western District of North Carolina in March of 1995.

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners requested the road be named for Thornburg. In February, the N.C. Board of Transportation passed a resolution dedicating the stretch of highway as the “Judge Lacy H. Thornburg Highway.”

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